



# Saints and Silverware

Identifying Saints and Martyrs  
in Medieval & Renaissance Art

# Some Vocabulary

## **Saint**

A person who is recognized as having an exceptional degree of holiness or likeness or closeness to God

### **Canonization**

The process of officially recognizing a saint

### **Beatification**

Third step of canonization process; potential saint receives title of "Blessed"

### **Attributes**

In art, symbols that mark or identify a saint to the viewer

## **Martyr**

One who is killed for their faith; from Koine μάρτυς, mártys (witness, testimony)

### **Megalomartyr**

Eastern Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches - one who has undergone excruciating torture and gained widespread veneration (AKA Great Martyr)

## **Wet Martyr**

Person who has shed blood or been executed for their faith

## **Dry martyr**

Person who has endured great suffering, but not shed blood or been executed, for their faith

## **Red Martyr**

Torture or violent death by religious persecution

## **Blue/Green Martyr**

denial of desires without complete withdrawal from life

## **White Martyr**

those who aspire to martyrdom through extreme asceticism (eg desert hermits)

# Brief History of Christian Martyrdom

"The blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church"  
-Tertullian (2nd century CE)

## **St. Stephen**

First martyr - c. 33-36 CE

## **Neronian Persecution (64 CE)**

Under Emperor Nero

## **Lyon Persecution (177 CE)**

Under Marcus Aurelius

In Roman Gaul

## **Decian Persecution (250 CE)**

Under Emperor Decius

3000-3500 Christians executed

## **Valerianic Persecution (257-260 CE)**

Under Emperor Valerian

Ended by Emperor Gallienus

## **The Little Peace of the Church (260-303 CE)**

Under Emperor Gallienus

## **Diocletianic Persecution (303 - 306 CE)**

AKA The Great Persecution

Under Emperors Diocletian, Maximian, Galerius, and Constantius

## **Peace of Galerius (311 CE)**

Ended persecution of Christians in the East

## **Baptism of Constantine (312 CE)**

First Christian emperor

## **Edict of Milan (313 CE)**

Ended persecution of Christians in the West

# Saints & Martyrs

## COMMON SIGNALS



Martyr's Palm



Crown

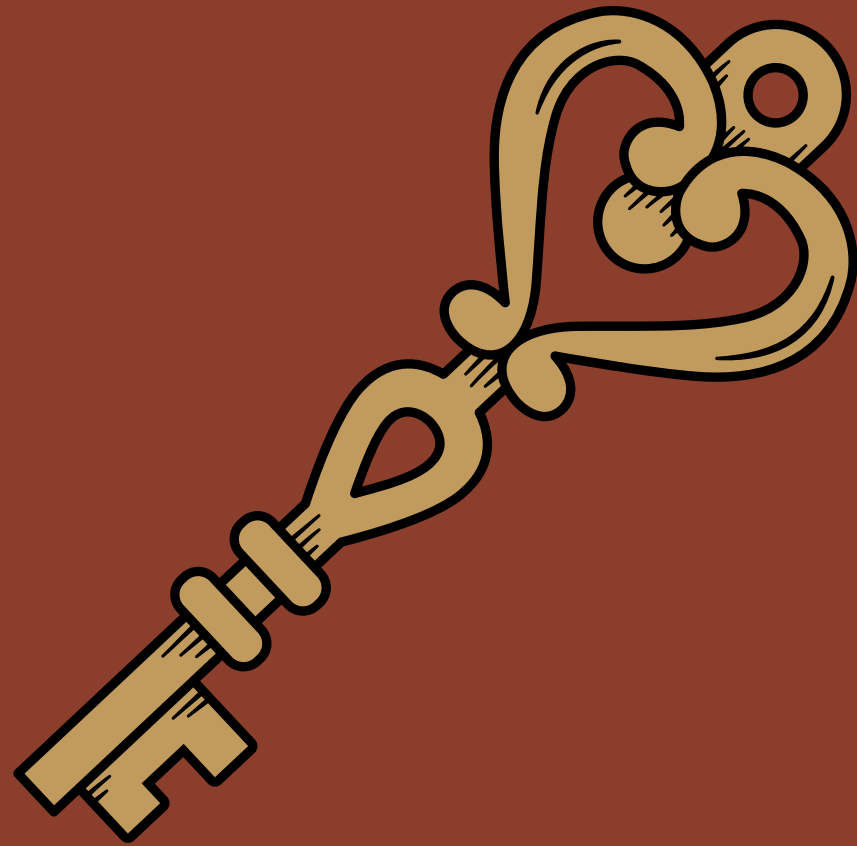


Halo



Ecstatic gaze

# Saints by Attributes Objects





Lippo Memmi, 14th c.

# Book and Sword

## ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE

Martyred in Neronian Persecution (c. 64/67  
CE) - Red Martyr

Patron saint of missionaries, theologians,  
evangelists, and Gentile Christians



Lucas Van Leyden  
c. 1520



Grandes Heures d'Anne de  
Bretagne  
1505-1510



Masaccio  
c. 1426

# Candle

## ST. GENEVIEVE

c. 419/422 - c. 502/509 CE

Other attributes: shepherdess with crook and wallet, two keys (of Paris), maiden with a devil and an angel

Patron saint of Paris, women, shepherds, hatters, wax-chandlers, vine dressers, and protects against war, dryness, pest, fever and sickness of the eyes



Lucas Cranach the Elder

1506





French Book of Hours  
c. 1485 - 1490



*Horae ad usum Romanum*  
1475-1600



Master of the Polycratique of  
Charles V  
c. 1380-95



*Horae ad usum Romanum*

1475-1600

# Cleaver

**ST. PETER MARTYR**

1206 - 1252 CE

Assassinated by Milanese Cathars

Red Martyr

Other attributes: the words "Credo in Deum, "  
hatchet, saint with severe head wound

Patron saint of inquisitors and midwives



Carlo Crivelli  
1482



Gualenghi-d'Este Hours  
c. 1469



Giorgio Schiavone  
1456-1461



Carlo Crivelli, 1472

# Golden Balls

**ST. NICHOLAS OF BARI/MYRA**

270 - 343 CE

Other attributes: gold coins, bishop's garb, children

Patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, prostitutes, children, brewers, pawnbrokers, unmarried people, and students



Matteo di Giovanni  
1455-60



Gentile da Fabriano  
1425



*Horae ad usum Romanum*  
1475-1600

# Grill/Gridiron

**ST. LAWRENCE**

225-258 CE

Martyred in Valerianic Persecution (258 CE)

Red Martyr

Other attributes: dalmatic (liturgical tunic)

Patron saint of archivists, librarians,  
students, miners, tanners, chefs

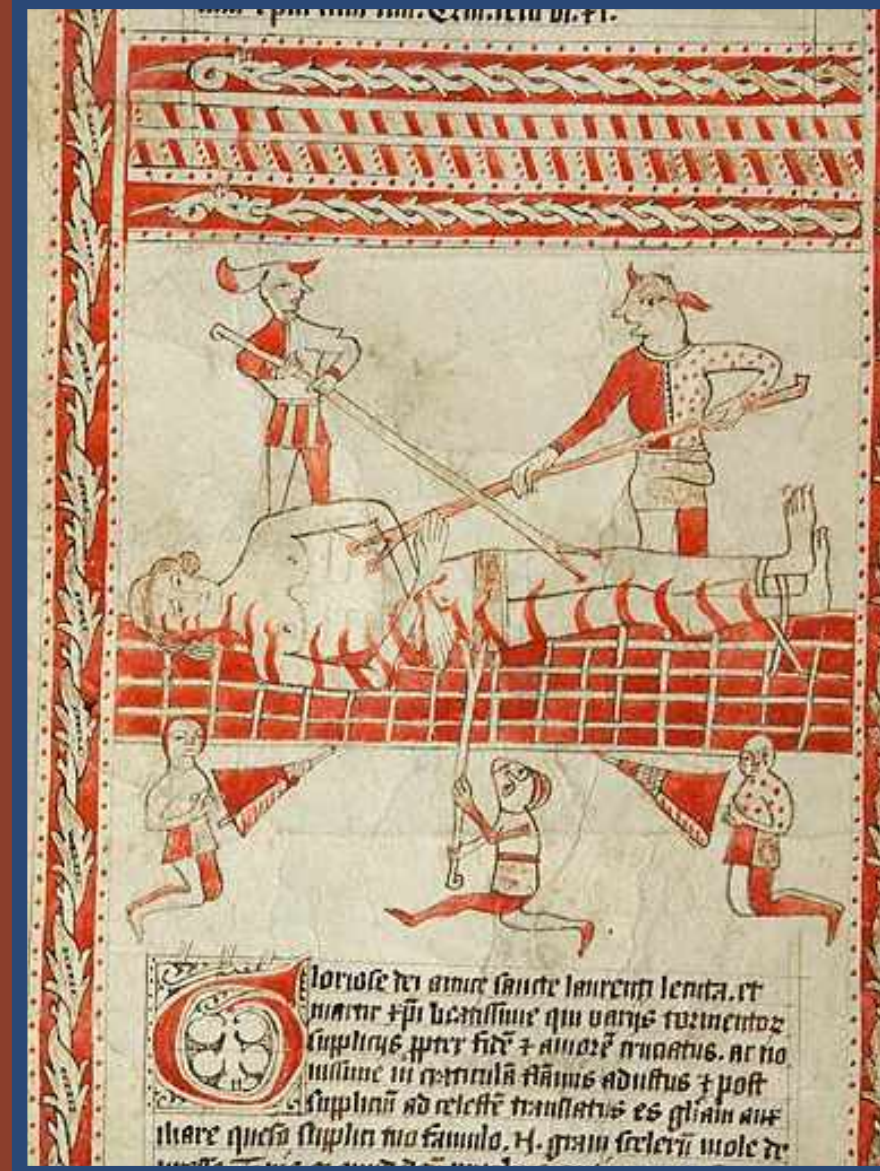


Dutch Book of Hours

c. 1440



*Horae ad usum Romanum*  
1475-1600



English prayer roll  
c. 1500



El Greco  
1580



Andrea Solario c. 1524

# Jar of myrrh

## ST. MARY MAGDALENE

Other attributes: box of myrrh, red egg  
(Eastern Orthodox)

Patron saint of converts, glovemakers,  
hairdressers, perfumeries, penitent sinners,  
tanneries, sexual temptation, women





Carlo Crivelli  
c. 1480-87



Ambrosius Benson  
early 16th c.



Rogier van der Weyden  
c. 1435-38



Marco Zoppo c. 1468

# Keys

## ST. PETER

30 - c. 64-68 CE

Martyred in Neronian Persecution (68 CE)

Red Martyr

Other attributes: rooster, Cross of Saint Peter

Patron saint of bakers, butchers, fishermen, cordwainers, locksmiths, stationers, shipwrights, and protection against foot problems, fever, frenzy, and more



Francesco del Cossa  
1473



Llanbeblig Hours  
c.1390-1400



Corregio  
1520-1524



Raffaello Sanzio

1516-17

# Music

## ST. CECILIA

Martyred in Rome under Emperor Alexander Severus (c. 230 CE) - Red Martyr

Other attributes: flute, organ, roses, violin, harp, harpsichord, songbird, singing

Patron saint of music and musicians, hymns, poets, pipe organs



Church of St. Cecilia  
Trastevere, Rome



Nuremberg Chronicles  
1493



Circle of Ambrosius Benson  
16th century



Hans Memling  
c. 1470

# Veil

**ST. VERONICA**

1st century CE

Patron saint of images, laundry workers, pictures, French mulquiniers (fine linen weavers)



Grégoire Guérard  
c. 1530



Master of St. Veronica  
c. 1420



Robert Campin of Flemalle  
c. 1410



Raffaello Sanzio

1507

# The Wheel

## ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA

Martyred in Alexandria under Emperor Maxentius (early 4th century)- megalomartyr

Other attributes: hailstones, bridal veil and ring, dove, scourge, book, woman arguing with pagan philosophers, crown at feet

Patron saint of unmarried girls, the dying, librarians/archivists, those who work on/with wheels, hatmakers, educators, and many more





Konrad Witz  
c. 1440



Master of the Virgo inter  
Virgines late 15th c.



Caravaggio  
c. 1598

# Saints by Attributes Animals



# Dragon

## ST. GEORGE

Martyred in Bithynia during the Diocletianic persecution (303 CE) - megalomartyr

Other attributes: Crusader armor, lance tipped with cross, St. George's cross

Patron saint of agricultural workers, farmers, fieldworkers, soldiers, archers, armorers, equestrians, cavalry, sheep and shepherds, and protection from skin diseases, leprosy and syphilis



Hans Süß von Kulmbach

c. 1510



*Horae ad usum Romanum*  
1475-1600



*Legenda Aurea*  
1382



*Passio Sancti Georgii*  
c. 13th century



Grandes Heures d'Anne de  
Bretagne, 1505-1510

# Eagle

## ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Died 100 CE

Author: Gospel of John, Epistles of John,  
Revelation

Other attributes: chalice, scrolls, chalice with  
a serpent

Patron saint of love, loyalty, friendship,  
authors



Piero de Cosimo  
1504-1506



Juan de Juanes  
c. 1445-1450



De Grey Hours  
c. 1390



Bernardino Pinturricchio  
c. 1475-1480

# Lion

**ST. JEROME (ST. HIERONYMUS)**

342/7 - 420 CE

Other attributes: cardinal attire, cross, skull, trumpet, owl, books, writing materials

Patron saint of archaeologists, archivists, Bible scholars, libraries/librarians, schoolchildren, students, translators



Nuremberg Chronicles  
1493



Antonio da Fabriano II  
c. 1451



Niccolò Antonio Colantonio  
c. 1445-1446



# Saints by Attributes

## Body Parts





Hieronymus Bosch

# Beard

**ST. WILGEFORTIS**

**AKA: St. Kümmeris/St. Uncumber/St. Liberada**

German folk saint (veneration removed in 1969)

Patron saint of relief from tribulations, abused women, facial hair



*Das Bild der Kummernis*  
c. 1513



*St. Kummernis*  
c. 1507



*Book of Hours of Mary of Burgundy*  
c. 1470



Grandes Heures d'Anne de  
Bretagne, 1505-1510

# Breasts

## ST. AGATHA

Martyred in Sicily during Decian Persecution  
(250-253 CE) - Red Martyr

Other attributes: shears, tongs

Patron saint of wet nurses, rape victims,  
bakers, jewelers, martyrs, bell founders, fire  
victims/protection from fires, nurses,  
sterility, torture victims



Piero della Francesca  
1460-1470



Luini  
16th century



Cariani  
c. 1516-1517



Francesco del Cossa

1472

# Eyes

## ST. LUCY

Martyred in Sicily during the Diocletianic Persecution (304 CE) - Red Martyr

Other attributes: cord, lamp, swords, often accompanied by Sts. Agatha, Agnes of Rome, Barbara, Catherine of Alexandria, and Thecla

Patron saint of the blind, writers, throat infections, epidemics, martyrs, and salesmen



Francesco Zaganelli  
15th c.



Domenico Beccafumi  
1521



Giovanni Antonio Bottraffio  
c. 1509



Marco d'Agrate

1562

# Flayed Skin

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW**

Martyred in Armenia (1st century) - Red Martyr

Other attributes: flensing knife

Patron saint of Armenia, bookbinders, butchers, leather workers, skin diseases, shoemakers, curriers, tanners, trappers, and more





Michaelangelo  
(as Bartholomew)  
1536-1541



Matteo di Giovanni  
1480



Giovanni da Milano  
1355-1360



*Head of St. John the Baptist  
on a Plate c. 1430*

# Head on a Platter

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

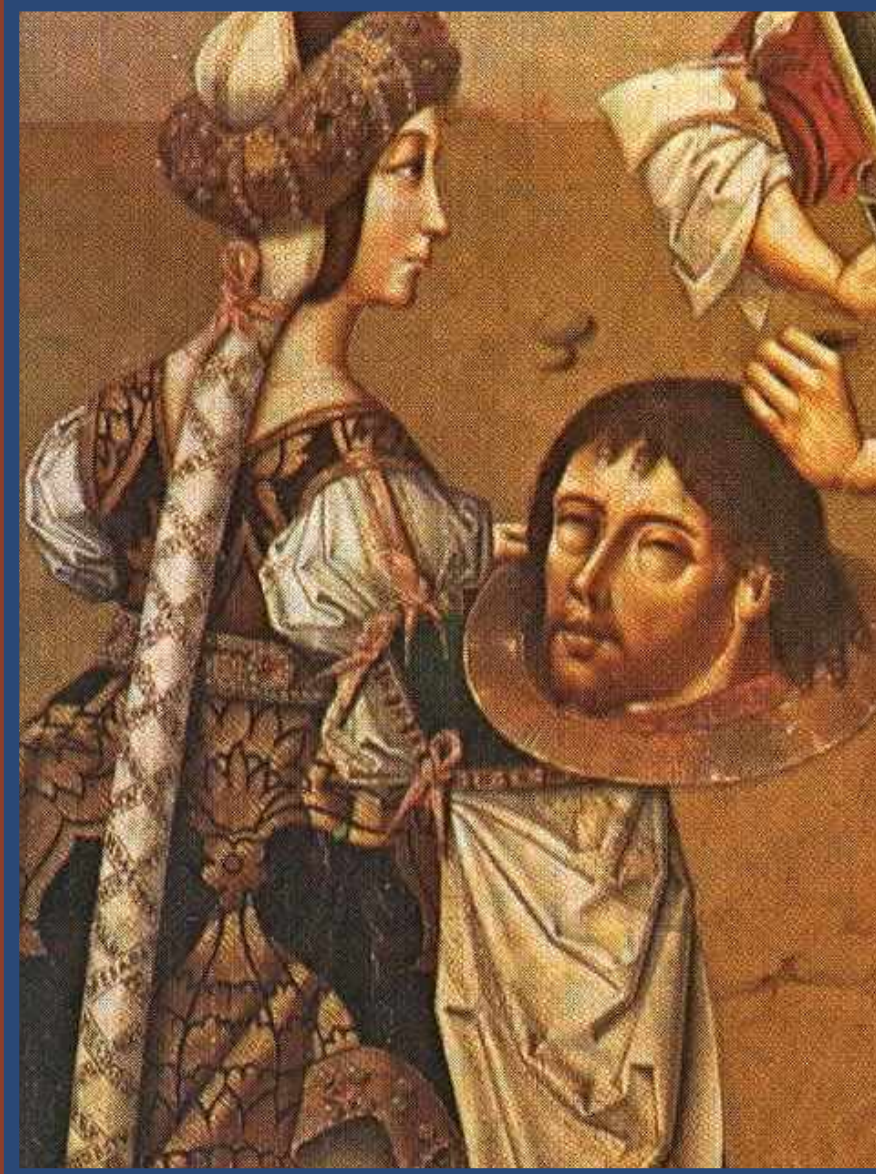
Beheaded by Herod Antipas (c. 30 CE) - Red  
Martyr

Other attributes: camel-skin robe, cross, lamb,  
pouring water from hands or scallop shell,  
scroll with the words "Agnus Dei:

Patron saint of the Knights Hospitaller



Juan de Flandes  
1496



Maestro de Miraflores  
c. 1490



Pedro Garcia de Benabarre  
c. 1470



Jan Van Eyck  
1430-32

# Stigmata

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

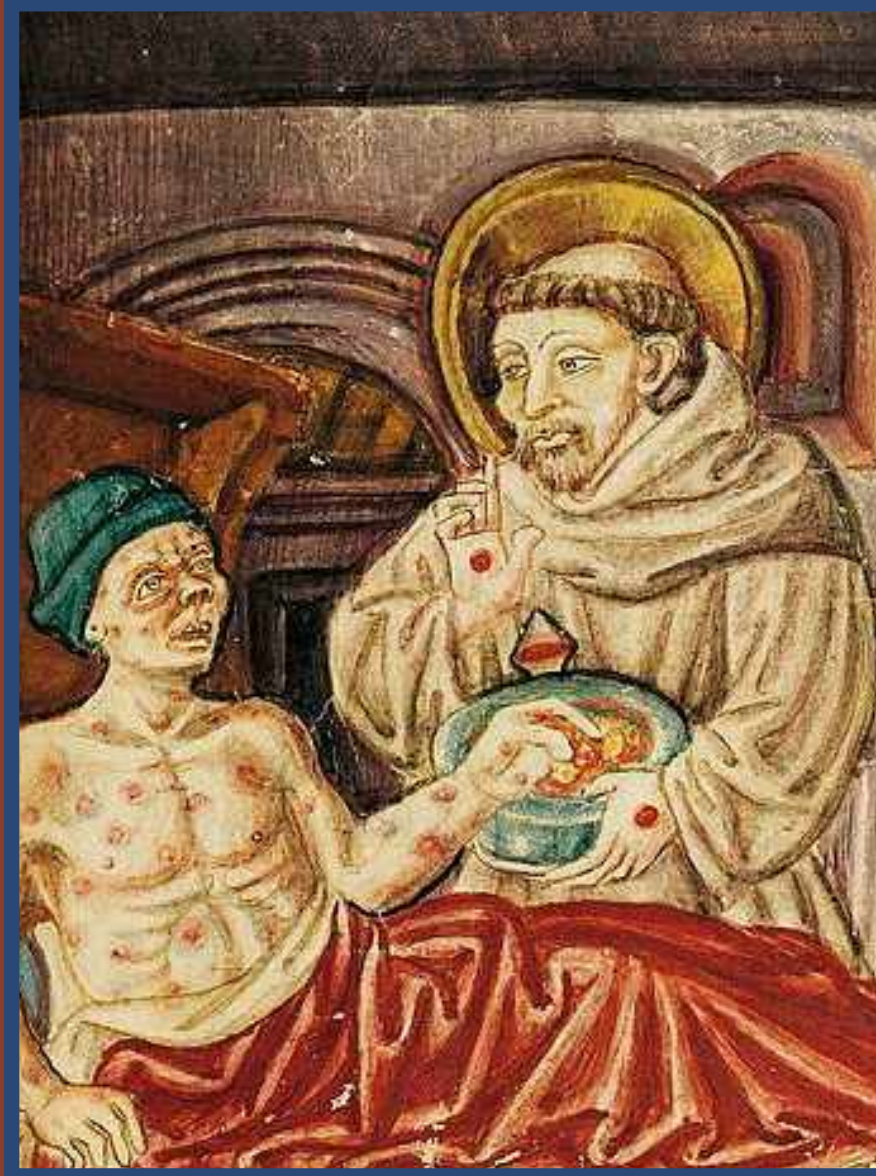
1181/2 - 1226 CE

Other attributes: Franciscan habit, birds, crucifix, book, skull

Patron saint of the Franciscan order, animals, merchants, ecology, stowaways, and Italy



Cimabue  
c. 13th century



*La Franceschina*  
1474



Book of Hours by Master of  
Sir John Falstolf  
1430-1440



Lucas Cranach the Elder

# Tooth & pincers

**ST. APOLLONIA**

Martyred in Alexandria during the Decian persecution (250-253 CE) - Red Martyr

Patron saint of dentists and tooth problems



*Horae ad usum Romanum*  
1475-1600



Bernardino Luini  
1500-1532



Hans Baldung Grien  
1507